AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) In an article of electrical equipment comprising a conductor insulated by a paper insulating material, a method comprising extending the service life of the paper insulating material by impregnating the material with a dielectric fluid comprising between 5 and 25% by weight, based on the total weight of the dielectric fluid, of an ester compound selected from: (a) soya, sunflower, canola, rapeseed, corn, peanut, cottonseed, crambe, and meadowfoam oils, the high oleic content versions thereof and blends thereof; and (b) diesters, polyol esters and blends thereof, wherein the diesters are selected from the group consisting of adipates, azelates, sebacates, dodecanedioates, phthalates, dimerates and blends thereof, and wherein the polyol esters are selected from the group consisting of neopentyl glycol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol and blends thereof, and wherein the dielectric fluid further comprises 0.1 to 2.5 wt% of a co-additive selected from the group consisting of antioxidants and pour point depressants.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the ester compound is a vegetable oil.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the ester compound is soya oil.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the soya oil has a high oleic content.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the dielectric fluid comprises a petroleum-based mineral oil.

26. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the dielectric fluid comprises an α-polyolefin.

27. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the co-additive is an antioxidant.

28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the dielectric fluid comprises a blend of a mineral oil, a vegetable oil and an antioxidant.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the ester compound comprises a mixture of vegetable oils.

30. (New) In a transformer comprising a conductor insulated by a paper insulating material, a method comprising extending the service life of the paper insulating material by impregnating the material with a dielectric fluid comprising a mineral oil and between 5 and 25 wt%, based on the total weight of the dielectric fluid, of an ester compound selected from the group consisting of soya, sunflower, canola, rapeseed, corn, peanut, cottonseed, crambe, and meadowfoam oils, the high oleic content versions thereof and blends thereof, and wherein the dielectric fluid further comprises 0.1 to 2.5 wt% of an antioxidant.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the ester compound is soya oil.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the soya oil is a high oleic content soya oil.

33. (New) In a transformer comprising a conductor insulated by a paper insulating material, wherein the paper material is impregnated with a mineral oil, a method comprising extending the service life of the paper insulating material by replacing the mineral oil with a dielectric fluid comprising a mineral oil and between 5 and 25 wt%, based on the total weight of the dielectric fluid, of an ester compound selected from the group consisting of soya oil, sunflower oil, the high oleic content versions thereof and blends thereof, and wherein the dielectric fluid further comprises from 0.1 to 2.5 wt% of an antioxidant.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the ester compound is soya oil.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the soya oil is a high oleic content soya oil.